

# **FISCAL NOTE**

## **SB 1783 - HB 1731**

March 11, 2003

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Gives juvenile courts exclusive jurisdiction for grandparents to petition for visitation rights with their grandchildren. Currently the law allows grandparents to petition any court of competent jurisdiction. The bill also permits a biological or stepsibling to petition the juvenile court for reasonable visitation rights if sufficient relationship exists between the children and such visitation is in the best interest of the child.

### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Less than \$100,000**  
**State Expenditures - Net Impact - Not Significant**

Estimate assumes:

- An increase in local government expenditures for additional staff resources in juvenile courts to handle these cases. It is assumed that any required services of a guardian ad litem to provide the court information to determine the best interests of the child would be assessed as costs to the parties.
- In cases involving any children in state custody, the costs to the Department of Children's Services would be not significant.
- Any decrease in state expenditures as the result of a reduction in cases involving grandparents visitation rights is estimated to be not significant.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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